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The People of the Elephant



Fantastic children stories
for teaching Islamic and moral values.

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Credits & Acknowledgments

This work or any other work of Al Ma'hadul Islami is the result of the effort of many Muslims. I would like to thank all those who helped to make this work possible, especially those who are directly involved at the institute, not forgetting my teachers and my Shaykh Hadrat Maulana Yusuf Sahib for their guidance, help and Du'as.

Ahmed Ali

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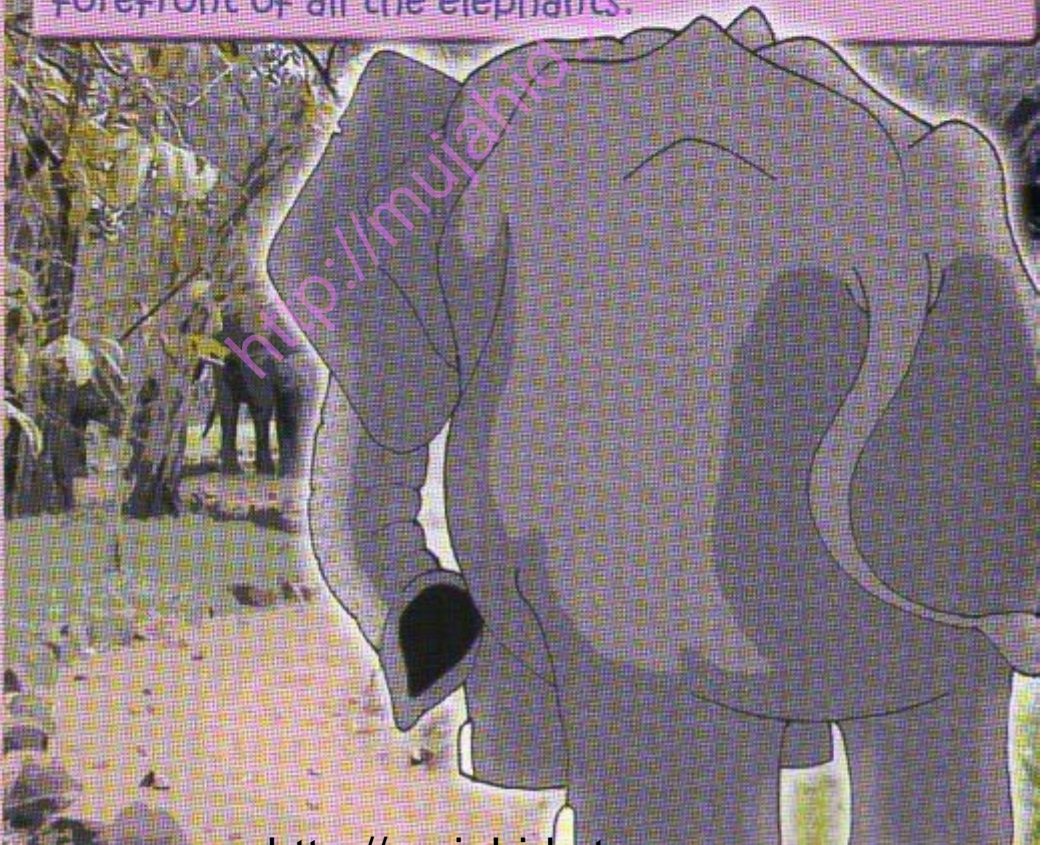
In the days when the Arab land of Yemen was ruled by the Ethiopian King, a very strange event took place fifty days before the birth of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W).

The Governor of Yemen at the time was a very bad Christian called Abraha who hated every religion other than Christianity. The Arabs of Yemen at the time worshipped idols though, and would make the long hard journey to Makkah to perform the Hajj every year. Abraha would think long and hard and question himself, "What is so special about the Ka'bah? Why do Arabs travel hundreds of miles every year to the house of Allah undergoing all types of hardships and difficulties?" This made him jealous and angry and so he thought of a plan to stop the Arabs from visiting the house of Allah.

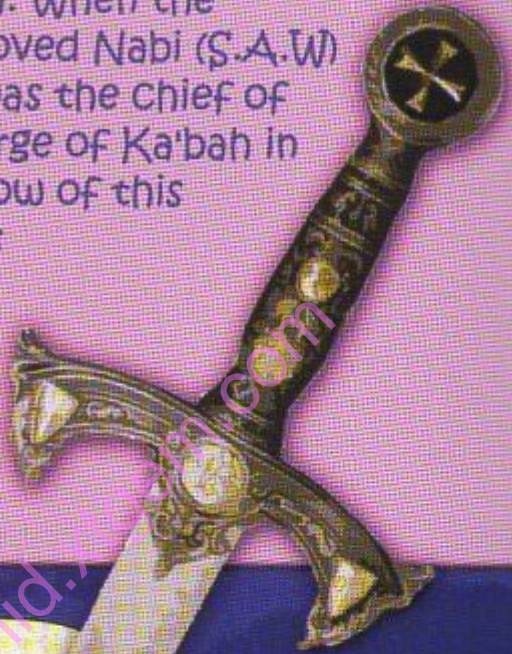


He thought very hard and came to the conclusion that he would build a very big church in the city of San'ah the likes of which had never been seen before. Maybe then the Arabs would stop their visits to the Ka'bah. The best builders and decorators were called, large amounts of money were spent, and a huge church was built. It was so big that anyone standing in front of it could not see its peak with the naked eye. It was furnished with all possible charms and decorations, studded with precious stones and jewels.

It was a master piece but even then the Arabs paid no attention as their love for the Ka'bah was far greater. On the contrary when they realized the purpose of building the church they set fire to it causing great damage. This angered Abraha and he vowed that he would destroy the House of Allah. Abraha began to prepare for his mission. He took permission from his King who sent elephants to help him, including his special elephant Mahmood, a huge animal surprising in appearance. Abraha set off, with drummers and hundreds and thousands of soldiers, all fully armed carrying flags. Mahmood marched at the forefront of all the elephants.



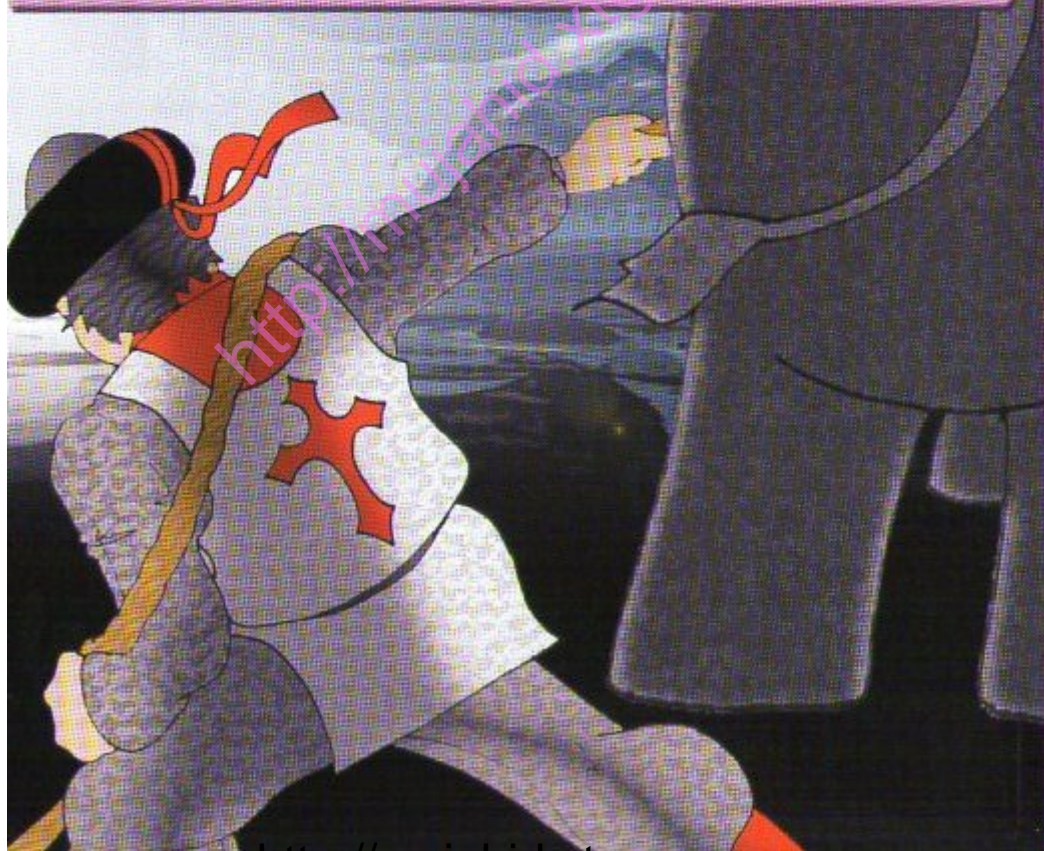
He crossed valleys and mountains and passed through deserts conquering and defeating any tribes who opposed him. When the grandfather of our beloved Nabi (S.A.W) Abdul Muttalib, who was the chief of the Quraish and in charge of Ka'bah in those days, came to know of this great army of elephants and soldiers advancing towards Makkah, he gathered his people, the Quraish and said, "Oh people manage to defend yourselves."



Abraha and his army had come close to Makkah by now. They saw the camels of the Quraish grazing, two hundred belonged to Abdul Muttalib, so they captured them. Abdul Muttalib went to see Abraha, who was sitting on a big chair with servants all around him holding fans made of peacock feathers and guards holding shining swords. On seeing the chief of the Quraish, he made him sit besides him thinking that he had come to talk about the Ka'bah. But Abraha was very surprised to learn that Abdul Muttalib had come to demand his camels back. He asked him as to why he did not talk about the Ka'bah. Abdul Muttalib replied, "I came for the camels because they are mine, as for the Ka'bah, it has an owner and its owner, Allah will protect it." He left with his camels and holding the door of the Ka'bah began to pray to Allah asking Him to protect His House.



He then left with the Quraish to the mountains knowing that the Punishment of Allah was to come. The next morning, Abraha prepared to attack the Ka'bah but surprisingly his elephant Mahmood would not move towards the direction of the Ka'bah. They whipped him and beat him with sticks and chains but still he refused to move. They then took the elephants in the opposite direction, they stood up and walked with them. The soldiers took the elephants towards the East and they walked, but every time they tried to take them in the direction of the Ka'bah they would refuse to move and would sit down.





Meanwhile, they saw strange birds of green and yellow the likes of which they had never seen before, coming from the seaside in flight. Crowds upon crowds of these strange birds began to drop pebbles upon the army of Abraha.

These pebbles by the power of Allah pierced like bullets through their bodies and came out of the other side leaving some strange poison in them. Most of the soldiers died there and then and the others died as they fled and ran. As for Abraha the poison entered his body. He was taken to Yemen and every part of his body began to melt till he was no more.

